



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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Memorandum

TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Program
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
School Psychologist Practitioners

FROM: William J. Hussey, Director, 
Exceptional Children Division

DATE: August 22, 2018

RE: DMA Policy 10C Changes and School Psychological Evaluation Services

As a follow-up to the July 31 memo issued through the DPI Exceptional Children Division describing the NC Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) changes to [Clinical Coverage Policy 10-C](#) for Local Education Agencies, the following information is provided to clarify information relevant to the evaluation services provided by school psychologists (subsections 3.8, 3.9 & 3.12).

As noted in [Clinical Coverage Policy 10C](#), the definition of psychological and counseling services is listed as follows:

3.8 Psychological and Counseling Services

This service may consist of testing and clinical observation as appropriate for chronological or developmental age for one or more of the following areas of functioning:

- a. emotional and personality;*
- b. adaptive behavior; or*
- c. behavior.*

To be reimbursed, an evaluation must address one or more of the areas above. Please note that a cognitive evaluation is no longer included in this definition; however, many psychological evaluations conducted by school psychologists also include assessment of one (or more) of the areas listed in this definition (see definition of psychological evaluation; pg.15, [NC Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities](#)).

School psychologists interested in documenting their evaluation services should work within their school districts/charters and with their current Medicaid vendor to begin this process, as this policy change became effective on July 1, 2018.

Ultimately, when Every Child Accountability Tracking System (ECATS) rolls out, training on documenting evaluations in the ECATS will be provided. The delays with the rollout of ECATS should not delay school districts from moving forward with documentation for psychological evaluation services, if this is something that they would like to pursue.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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Please direct additional questions regarding this policy change as it applies to school psychologists to Lynn Makor, Consultant for School Psychology [lynn.makor@dpi.nc.gov; 919) 843-7049].

For questions regarding Medicaid reimbursement for LEAs under policy 10-C, please contact: Lauren Holahan, Consultant for Medicaid/Occupational Therapy [lauren_holahan@med.unc.edu; 919) 428-7201] or Laurie Ray, Consultant for Medicaid/Physical Therapy [laurie_ray@med.unc.edu; 919) 636-1827].

For questions regarding specific reimbursement procedures/practices, please contact your LEA's central office, Director of Exceptional Children Programs and/or vendor.

WJH/DM/LM/ss